

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00918 01 OF 02 260524Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----117772 260528Z /12  
P 260100Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9529

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0918

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

EA ONLY FROM EILAND

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1  
TAGS: PDIP, US, VM  
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF CODEL MONTGOMERY IN SRV

1. SUMMARY: CODEL RECEIVED EVERY REASONABLE COURTESY  
IN THE SRV, TO INCLUDE TWO FORMAL MEETINGS AND TWO  
DINNERS WITH PHAN HIEN, AUDIENCES WITH PHAM VAN DONG  
AND XUAN THUY, A TRIP TO A CAMBODIAN REFUGEE CAMP,  
AND PATIENTLY CONDUCTED SHOPPING AND SIGHTSEEING TOURS.  
ELEVEN REMAINS OF U.S. MIA'S ARE SCHEDULED TO BE TURNED  
OVER BY SRV IN HANOI SATURDAY AFTERNOON. TRIP TO  
LAOS WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE CABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MOST SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS WERE OF COURSE THOSE  
WITH PHAN HIEN. HE ANTICIPATED CODEL CONCERN WITH  
SOVEIT INFLUENCE, AND STRESSED TIME AND AGAIN THAT  
SRV FOREIGN POLICY IS MULTIFACETED AND BASED ON  
INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY. NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED  
TO ENCROACH ON VIETNAM'S INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY,  
WHETHER FROM NEAR OR FAR. VIETNAME NOW HAS THESE TWO  
PRIZES AFTER 4,000 YEARS OF STRUGGLE, AND WILL NOT

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SEEM THEM COMPROMISED. SOME, HE SAID, NOW SEE AND  
SRV TILT TOWARDS THE SOVIETS BECAUSE OF THE TENSION  
BETWEEN THE SRV AND PRC. THAT IS NOT SO. THERE ARE  
GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE USSR, BUT THEY ARE BASED ON  
INDEPENDANCE AND SOVEREIGNTY. THE SRV ENTRY INTO  
COMECON WAS A NECESSARY AND LOGICAL STEP, NO DIFFERENT  
IN PRINCIPLE THAN SRV MEMBERSHIP IN THE IMF, WORLD

BANK, AND ADB, AND IT ALSO IS BASED ON THE SAME TWO TENETS. THERE IS NO RUSSIAN BASE AT CAM RANH BAY, AS HE KNOWS U.S. SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHY HAS SHOWN. A VISIT TO CAM RANH BAY WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE, HOWEVER, FOR THE SAME REASONS THAT AMERICANS WOULD NOT PERMIT SUCH A TRIP TO ONE OF THEIR INSTALLATIONS. IT IS ALSO A QUESTION OF TRUST IN HIS WORD, HE SAID. AS DEPARTMENT NOW KNOWS, NO SUCH TRIP WAS MADE.

3. ON MIA AND RELATED MATTERS, HE SAID THAT HE KNOWS THIS IS AN IMPORTANT HUMANITARIAN MATTER WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED. THERE ARE THREE POINTS TO REMEMBER: -- ALL LIVE POWS HAVE BEEN RETURNED. THERE ARE NO POW'S ALIVE IN THE SRV, TO INCLUDE THOSE TAKEN IN THE LAST DAYS OF SAIGON. HE SAID SOMEWHAT HEATEDLY THAT STATEMENTS TO THE CONTRARY BY REFUGEES ARE TOTALLY UNFOUNDED. -- THEY ARE TRYING TO RESOLVE THE MATTER OF RE-UNIFICATION OF WIVES AND CHILDREN OF AMERICANS. IN TWO OR THREE MONTHS THEY MAY HAVE RESOLUTION OF THE CURRENTLY PENDING CASES. --THERE IS AN ORGANIZATION TO SEARCH FOR REMAINS WHOSE WORK CONTINUES ON A PERMANENT BASIS, ALTHOUGH IT MAY TAKE DECADES TO RESOLVE THE SUBJECT. ELEVEN CASES ARE READY TO GIVE TO THIS DELEGATION.

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4. ON MATTERS RELATED TO NORMALIZATION, HE SAID THAT DURING HIS RECENT TOUR OF SEVEN NATIONS HE WAS OFTEN ASKED IF HE LINKED MIA'S, RECONSTRUCTION AID, AND NORMALIZATION. HE SAID THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CONTINUOUS MIA SEARCH BUT NO U.S. HELP IN RECONSTRUCTION, SO ONE CAN DRAW ONE'S OWN CONCLUSIONS ON LINKAGE. IT IS IN THE U.S. INTEREST TO SEE A VIETNAM STRONG ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE, HOWEVER. WHEN REMINDED THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF RECONSTRUCTION AID, HE SAID THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO LET BYGONES BE BYGONES AND WAS PREPARED TO RESUME TALKS ANY TIME OR PLACE. POSSIBLY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO SIDES WILL MEET IN THE NEAR FUTURE. NEITHER PARTY SHOULD IMPOSE PRECONDITIONS TO THE RESUMPTION OF TALKS BUT NEITHER SHOULD ANY POTENTIAL SUBJECT FOR NEGOTIATION BE FORECLOSED. DON'T DEPRIVE MR. HOLBROOKE OF A JOB, AS HE PUT IT. NORMALIZATION SHOULD BE BASED ON MUTUAL BENEFIT; A BENEFIT TO THIS CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION IS A CHANCE TO MAKE HISTORY, SINCE IT WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE WAR. IF AMERICANS WANT TO RETURN TO VIETNAME IN FRIENDSHIP, THAT IS FINE, BUT IT IS EVEN BETTER IF THEY BRING SOMETHING IN HAND, JUST AS IT IS BETTER FOR THIS DELEGATION TO RETURN HOME WITH

SOMETHING IN HAND. THE SRV KNOWS HOW TO BE FLEXIBLE.  
A WAY OF ASSISTING THE SRV IS THROUGH CREDIT ON SOFT  
TERMS, BUT THE EMBARGO STANDS IN THE WAY OF THIS NOW.  
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND TRAINING IS ALSO VERY  
IMPORTANT. THERE ARE NOW MORE AMERICANS VISITING VIETNAME  
THAN VICE VERSA, AND HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT BALANCED.

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ACTION SS-25

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-----118049 260601Z /11  
P 260100Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9530

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 0918

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

EA ONLY FROM EILAND

5. PHAN HIEN ALSO BROUGHT UP THE EMBARGO IN A CONVERSA-  
TION WITH ME AT DINNER. I SAID THAT DOMESTIC POLITICAL  
REQUIREMENTS MIGHT DICTATE ITS RENEWAL, AND HOPED THAT  
THE SRV RESPONSE WOULD BE RESTRAINED. (HOWEVER, I  
BELIEVE ALL OF THESE CONSERVATIVE CONGRESSMEN WOULD  
FAVOR A LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO.) HE GRIMACED, SHOOK  
HIS HEAD, AND SAID THAT RENEWAL WOULD NOT BE VERY  
CONSTRUCTIVE. EARLIER IN THAT CONVERSATION HE  
ACKNOWLEDGED AND RETURNED ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
HOLBROOKE'S GREETINGS, AND SAID THAT HE HOPED TO MEET  
HIS OLD FRIEND OF TWELVE YEARS SOON. LATER HE MENTIONED  
WANTING TO VISIT THE U.S. IN MARCH OR APRIL.

6. ON OTHER SUBJECTS, HE SAID THAT THE SRV IS PRE-  
PARED NOW TO COOPERATE BILATERALLY WITH ASEAN NATIONS,  
AND WOULD CONSIDER ENTRY INTO ASEAN IF INVITED AND ON  
THE BASIS OF WHAT BENEFIT THERE WOULD BE TO THE SRV.  
HE GAVE STANDARD PRESENTATIONS ON THE CAMBODIAN  
AND PRC PROBLEMS, AND SUFFERED THROUGH A RATHER  
DIFFUSE DISCUSSION OF TRADE POSSIBILITIES.

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5. THE MEETING WITH PHAM VAN DONG WAS MOSTLY IMPORTANT SYMBOLICALLY, ALTHOUGH HE DID BRING UP THE SUBJECT OF NORMALIZATION AND SAID THAT HE POSED THE QUESTION TO DR. KISSINGER AT THE TIME OF SIGNING THE PARIS AGREEMENTS.

8. AS TO THE MATTER OF RELEASING THE NAMES OF REMAINS, CONGRESSMAN MONTGOMERY WAS ADAMANT THAT HE RELEASE THEM TO THE PRESS DURING THE TRIP SO AS NOT TO MAKE 2,500 FAMILIES WONDER UNTIL FURTHER IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURES WERE FINISHED. HE DID AGREE TO WAIT 24 HOURS SO THAT I COULD NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT. A POTENTIAL HITCH IS THAT THE BODIES WERE NOT IN HANOI; BUT IN THE PROVINCES IN WHICH THEY WERE FOUND - THE SRV WAS NOT PLANNING ORIGINALLY TO SEND THEM BACK WITH CODEL. HOPEFULLY THEY WILL ALL BE AVAILABLE IN HANOI SATURDAY.

9. THE TRIP TO SAIGON WAS ALTERNATELY A SHOPPING AND THEN A MEDIA ORGY. CODEL LOADED UP ON BUFE'S. VERY LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE ASIDE FROM A ONE-HOUR LONG DIALOGUE OF THE DEAF WITH ICRC REPRESENTATIVES WAS UNDERTAKEN.

10. ENTIRE TRIP WAS MARKED BY AN EFFUSIVE DISPLAY OF GOOD WILL ON THE PART OF THE VIETNAMESE, INCLUDING ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE TO OUTLANDISH REQUESTS. THE MEDIUM HAS BEEN THE MESSAGE.  
ROBERTS

SECRET

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